

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SNM-02 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 137

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, BM

SUBJECT: GUB AID CONSORTIUM PROPOSAL

REF: STATE 191280

1. AFTER RECEIVING REFTEL, WE COMPARED NOTES WITH A FEW OTHER PROSPECTIVE DONORS. THE UK AND FRG REPLIES TO GUB ARE PARALLEL TO OUR OWN. THE JAPANESE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS BUT ANTICIPATE SIMILAR LANGUAGE FROM TOKYO; THEY EXPECT LESS SHARP DEFINITION OF IMF-IBRD ROLE IN THEIR INSTRUCTIONS, BUT FEEL THIS WILL BE IMPLIED. FRENCH ARE STILL WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS.

2. ALL NOTE THAT FLESHED-OUT VERSION OF GUB PROPOSAL IS NOT YET AVAILABLE. U CHIT MOUNG, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE, IS STILL HARD AT WORK ON THIS AND PLANS TO UNVEIL IT TO IBRD WHEN HE ACCOMPANIES U LWIN TO WASHINGTON. THE CIRCULATING PROCESS, DESCRIBED IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL, IS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT LITTLE U LWIN HAS TOLD POTENTIAL DONORS, AND ALL AGREE THAT AS A MINIMUM, THE IBRD WOULD HAVE TO HAVE VETTED THE PROJECT PROPOSALS.

3. TOGETHER WITH UK, FRG, AND JAPANESE EMBASSIES, WE FEEL THAT A FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE WOULD BE USEFUL (GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN PARA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1 OF STATE 186747 STRIKES THE RIGHT NOTE FOR THE MOMENT) BECAUSE

FORMATION OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP WOULD STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF
U LWIN AND THE SMALL BODY AROUND HIM WHO WISH TO RESTORE FISCAL
AND MONETARY ORTHODOXY HERE. THEY FACE NOT ONLY LIMITED
HOSTILITY TO THIS IN SOME DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT, BUT A MORE
GENERAL INCOMPREHENSION. U LWIN'S POSITION IS PRECARIOUS. THIS
IS INDICATED BY THE CURRENT SPATE OF RUMORS ABOUT HIM, HALF OF
WHICH HAVE HIM SACKED WITHIN THREE MONTHS WHILE THE OTHER HALF
HAVE HIM PROMOTED TO PRIME MINISTER WITHIN THE SAME PERIOD. THE
PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT BURMA IS ABOUT TO TURN AN ECONOMIC CORNER
MAY HAVE NO FOUNDATION. THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF TODAY ARE NOT
DIFFERENT -- ONLY WORSE -- THAN THEY HAVE BEEN FOR THE PAST DECADE
DURING WHICH THE GUB GRIMLY CLUNG TO ILL-ADVISED POLICIES. IF
THERE IS ANY SUBSTANCE TO THIS REPORT, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE WELL
FOR US TO MAKE THE RIGHT NOISES AND NOT PROVIDE A PRETEXT FOR
THOSE TROGLODYTES WHO WOULD NIP REFORM IN THE BUD.
HOWARTH
UNQUOTE. HOWARTH

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